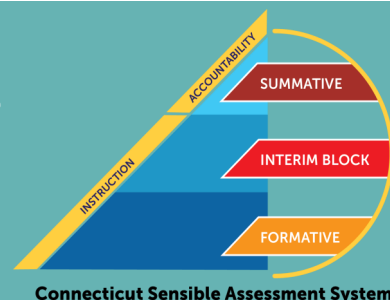




Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education
Performance Office



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

March 2024

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Use the quick links below to access articles and/or sections included in this newsletter.

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Force Match and Waiving Accommodations in SDMS

A force match can be done in SDMS for those students who have approved accommodations that are not showing up in SDMS. The **Test Coordinator AND SSD Coordinator** from each school has access in SDMS to do the force match or waive accommodations in the special circumstances. Once the force match or waive is complete, it will take up to 4 business days for this to be reflected in TDTK.

Test Day Toolkit

Testing staff will use College Board professional accounts to sign in to Test Day Toolkit on any device that connects to the internet. Test Coordinators (and backup test coordinators) should have access from College Board and should start setting up test administration on TDTK. Returning users can log onto testday.collegeboard.org. Test coordinators must create proctor accounts in TDTK as well as assign rooms for testing. When staff is added, they'll receive an email with TDTK access instructions, so accurate contact information is critical at the time of set-up. [Test Day Toolkit FAQs](#) has additional information. Coordinators can request to have additional staff added in the Test Coordinator role in TDTK by calling College Board Customer Service at 866-609-2205.

SAT Training Modules

The College Board online Test Administration Training has been updated for spring 2024 CT SAT to prepare for testing with College Board's new digital platform. There is one course for Test Coordinators, SSD Coordinators, and Tech Coordinators, and a separate course is available for Proctors and Monitors. If you attended the CSDE's online or in-person test coordinator training, it is not necessary to complete the test coordinator module. However, **all proctors and monitors must complete the updated proctor/monitor training even if their school participated in fall PSAT.**

Access the on-demand training modules by choosing School Day Test Administration Training from the dashboard on the College Board professional account **OR** by visiting <https://professionaltraining.collegeboard.org/>.

CT-SEDS Update

CT-SEDS and TIDE are now syncing nightly Monday through Friday for the Alternate Assessment Flag Indicator.

Save the Date - CSDE Performance Office - Student Assessment Office Hours

On Thursdays, from April 4th through May 30th, the Performance Office will be hosting Student Assessment Office Hours from 3:00-4:00pm via Teams. Additional information will be shared soon.

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Summative Assessment Updates

General Tips for Test Preparation

Provide teacher training on summative assessment administration. Administrators are welcome to supplement or use this [Test Administrator Training](#) optional presentation developed by the Assessment Team for test administrators administering the Smarter Balanced and NGSS assessments.

Summative Assessment Confirmation/Attestation Page

The attestation page displayed below will appear when administering the summative assessments in the TIDE Test Delivery System. Test Administrators will be required to complete this before they can advance and begin creating test sessions. The Performance Office is making this image available as it is a new enhancement.

Important! ✕

All test items and test materials are secure and must be handled appropriately. Educators who administer Connecticut's summative assessments (e.g., Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessment, NGSS Assessments, and Connecticut Alternate Science) are required to maintain security of the tests, the testing materials, and the testing environment. Maintaining the security and integrity of the entire assessment process is vital to ensuring the reliability of the results and the validity of the inferences made about student performance.

Connecticut's test security requirements are outlined in the respective Test Administration Manuals listed below:

Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual (see pages 2-5, 31 and 35)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Test Administration Manual (see pages 25-29)
NGSS Assessment Test Administration Manual (see pages 9-11, 41 and 43)

If you have any questions, please contact your School or District Coordinator.

WARNING! You are in the process of selecting a Summative Test. Students only have one opportunity to take this test. Please confirm your selection below and click OK to continue. If you are ready to administer the SUMMATIVE TEST, type **Summative** in the box.

hello
Please enter the correct word.

OK Cancel

Sensible Assessment Community of Practice Virtual Meetings

Join us for monthly Community of Practice meetings listed below or visit the [Student Assessment Training](#) page to view previous sessions.

Time/Topic	Topic Description
<u>March 27, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</u> <u>NGSS Interims and District Sharing</u>	Learn about updates to NGSS for this school year, review resources to support the use of NGSS Interims, and hear from Connecticut educators about strategies they are using to incorporate the NGSS Interim Assessments as tools to inform curriculum and instruction.
<u>April 24, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</u> <u>Smarter Balanced Interims and District Sharing</u>	Review resources and updated information for the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. Connecticut educators will share strategies that incorporate the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments as tools to inform curriculum and instruction.
<u>May 29, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</u> <u>Using Smarter Balanced/NGSS Interim Results and District Sharing</u>	Receive an overview of ways that Smarter Balanced/NGSS Interim Assessment results can be analyzed using the Centralized Reporting System. Connecticut educators will share their experiences and provide tips on analyzing interim results using the Centralized Reporting System.

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Special Populations

Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners

Students who are English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) may benefit from using designated supports when participating in the Connecticut state-wide assessments. These designated supports are intended as a language support for students who have limited English language skills, whether or not they are identified in PSIS as EL/ML or EL/ML with a disability. The use of these supports may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. Students should use the Practice Test with the designated supports prior to testing to ensure that they are appropriate and accessible before use on statewide assessments. Refer to the [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#) guidance for details.

Alternate Assessment System Reminders

Eligible students identified during their annual Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting to participate in the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System (CTAA and CTAS) must have the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form completed in CT-SEDS during the annual IEP review. Please allow up to 48 hours after the implementation date for the alternate assessment data to sync with TIDE. Once the sync is successful, the student's Alternate Assessment Indicator will be activated to YES. If NO is active on the Alternate Assessment Indicator, then check with the student's Case Manager to ensure that the form was completed in CT-SEDS.

Assessment Guidelines

The [Assessment Guidelines](#) provides detailed information related to accessibility supports and accommodations on statewide assessments. Additionally, it provides guidance related to special circumstances such as reader supports/accommodations, language supports for ELs/MLs, medical exemptions, and information about non-standard special documented accommodations.

Dates to Remember

Process	Dates to Remember	Delivery Method
CAAELP Domain Exemption	November 15, 2023, through March 22, 2024	TIDE Forms
Designated Supports	*For eligible students in the general student population who do not have an IEP/Section 504 Plan- manually enter or submit designated supports via batch upload in TIDE prior to testing.	TIDE Test Settings and Tools
Medical Exemptions	March 8, 2024 - LAS Links April 5, 2024 – CAAELP April 26, 2024 - Connecticut SAT School Day June 7, 2024 - Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and Connecticut Alternate Assessments	DA requests application from CSDE

Special Populations

Separate Test Setting Reminders

Some designated supports or accommodations require students to be assessed individually. These students would also require a separate setting.

Examples include students who are accessing the assessments with

- Simplified Test Directions (Exception: Some students with *similar needs* using this support can test in a small group setting.)
- the Read Aloud designated support or accommodation
- a talking calculator
- speech-to-text

This means that each student with any of these supports/accommodations needs an individual, separate setting, with an individual, separate proctor because the test administration/structure is substantially different from standard testers.

Special Documented Accommodations Resources for Proctors Providing Non-Standard Accommodations

When the PPT/504 plan rules out that a student’s needs cannot be met through the standard supports/accommodations, there are specific guidelines that must be provided to the teacher (and reviewed/signed by the teacher administering the accommodation(s)) prior to testing.

Accommodation Type	Resources Required for Review by Test Administrator Prior to Testing
Scribe	Scribe Protocol (complete and file locally)
Read Aloud/Human Signer/Visual Support for ELA, ELA Reading Passages, or Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smarter Balanced Read Aloud Guidelines • Documented Evidence of a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages
Math Manipulatives (Grades 3-8)	Math Manipulatives brochure
Non-Embedded Calculator (Math Grades 6-8)	This non-standard accommodation is only permitted for the calculator Segment 1 of the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment and the Math Performance Task in Grades 6-8. Refer to Page 38 and Appendix A of the Assessment Guidelines for details related to calculator specifications.

Special Populations

Accommodations

As you prepare for spring testing, please take time to work with your CT-SEDS Data Manager to review accommodations for Smarter Balanced and NGSS. Similar to last year, we are finding many accommodations in TIDE that conflict when an embedded and non-embedded version of a specific accommodation have been selected. Please review and confirm that designated supports and accommodations are not conflicting when selecting them for statewide testing. If updates are needed, the team should amend the IEP/Section 504 Plan or review/revise. Please allow 48 hours after the student's implemented plan for the accommodations to sync with TIDE. Accommodations should NOT be manually removed from TIDE since all changes must be processed in CT-SEDS.

These are examples of conflicting accommodations:

- Embedded Text-to-Speech and Non-Embedded Read Aloud
- Embedded Speech-to-Text and Scribe
- Embedded Color Contrast and Non-Embedded Color Contrast or Color Overlay
- Print Size and Large Print
- Specialized Calculator (Grade 6-8 Math or Science Grades 5, 8, 11), which is a Braille/Talking Calculator, and Calculator (Math Grade 6-8 Special Documented Accommodation)

Spring Assessment Tips for Test Coordinators

- Provide practice opportunities for students and test administrators.
- Work with your DA for testing to ensure that paper materials were ordered in advance of testing (e.g., Large Print and Braille).
- Refer to the [Technology Guide](#) available on the portal for assistive technology details.
- Work with Case Managers to cross check accommodations in CT-SEDS with those in TIDE prior to testing.
- Work with EL/ML Coordinators/teachers to ensure that appropriate language supports used during instruction are considered and made available if applicable.
- Schedule test sessions—allow for extended time if needed.

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Paper Material Orders

The District Administrator (DA) in TIDE is responsible for ordering paper materials for students requiring Large Print or Braille test booklets. Remember that although the English Language Arts Performance Task (PT) may appear in the paper materials, it should NOT be administered. Additionally, all student responses for Large Print and Braille must be transcribed into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) for scoring **no later than May 31**, prior to returning the secure paper documents to Measurement Incorporated. Please email [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Katie Seifert](#) with any questions.

Training

A variety of recorded webinars and PDFs of informational sessions are available on the [Student Assessment](#) webpage. For example, educators can refer to the District Administrator Summative Assessment Training, the optional Test Administrator Training, CAAELP Office Hours, and Best Practices for Determining Accommodations for Statewide Assessments Office Hours.

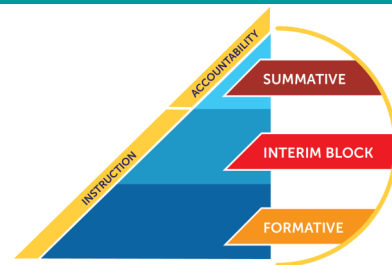
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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2023-24

Assessment	Dates
Secure Browser for Smarter, NGSS and CTAA	Please ensure you have updated the secure browser on each staff and student device for the 2023-24 school year. Please access the Technology Resources to support this process.
English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links	January 2—March 1, 2024
CAAELP (Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency)	February 1—March 29, 2024
Connecticut SAT School Day	March 4 – April 19, 2024 (Within the test window, schools can choose primary and make-up test dates.)
NGSS	February 5– May 31, 2024 (Grade 11) March 25– May 31, 2024 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 25– May 31, 2024
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 25-May 31, 2024 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 25-May 31, 2024
Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	Anytime during the school year.

Register for email updates

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the CT Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.



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